

UCAN (UNLOCKING COLLEGE ACADEMICS NOW) Annual Report 2017-2018

Submitted by Marvin Williams, Coordinator

MISSION

“The mission of the UCAN program – “Unlocking College Academics Now” – is to help students facing a first academic suspension to improve their grade point average and thereby continue their education. The program works toward this goal by helping these students identify their individual academic needs and then develop methods for eliminating the barriers that have hindered them in attaining successful academic outcomes. To achieve these goals, the UCAN program allows students to remain in school one additional semester rather than placing them on suspension.”

STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAM

- Every student enrolled in the program must submit an application, interview with the program coordinator and sign a contract agreeing to the following terms:
 - 1) Enroll in and successfully complete the UCAN Seminar.*
 - 2) Limit enrollment to no more than 14 semester hours, including the UCAN Seminar*
 - 3) Maintain at least a 2.0 semester grade point average for the academic term on at least 6 credit hours. Transitional (UNIV) courses are not used in computing the cumulative grade point average for earning any degree from the university, and will not be used for the purpose of this program.*
 - 4) Spend a minimum of five hours a week studying in an approved study site on campus and provide documentation of those hours to their UCAN instructor.*
 - 5) Adhere to the UCAN attendance policy, which allows no unexcused absences.*
 - 6) Receive advising in the Academic Advising Center by the program coordinator.*
 - 7) Take on-campus courses. NO online or correspondence courses are allowed.*
- Participants are required to attend an orientation before the beginning of the semester.
- Participants are required to attend a series of Academic Success Workshops. Topics include time management, note taking, study skills, effective communication skills, goal setting, paraphrasing strategies, etc.

- Participants are required to meet with all their professors at midterm to discuss their academic progress. The students are provided a progress report that must be signed by each professor. The progress reports are collected and evaluated by the program coordinator, who meets with the students to discuss potential problems.
- Ultimately, our goal is for participants to succeed in the program by achieving at least a 2.0 GPA for the semester, and to develop learning and life skills to acquire the motivation needed to complete their education.

SUMMARY

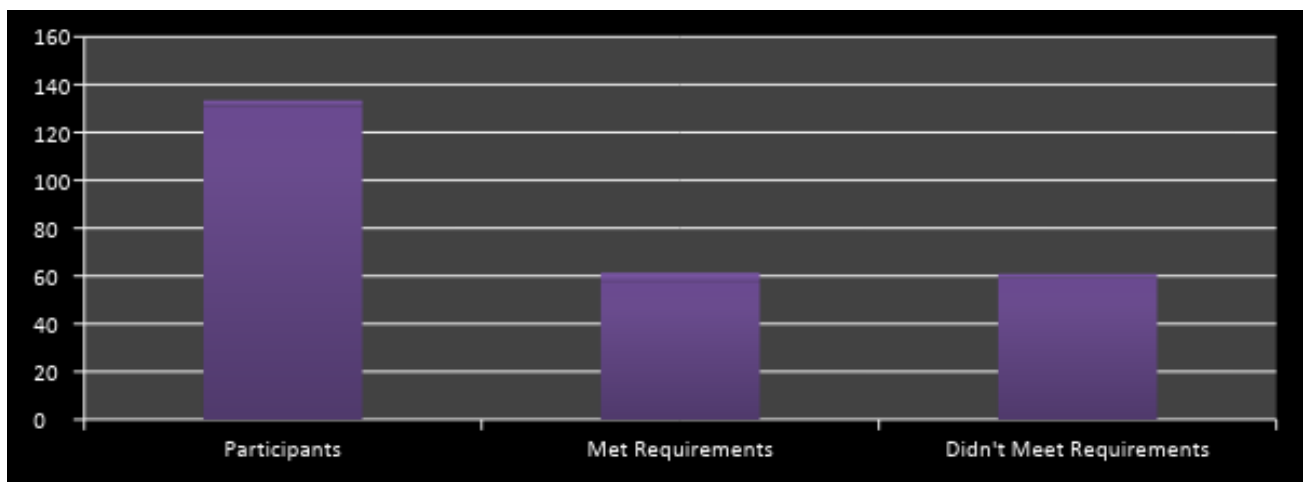
Withdrawn students are not counted in the totals or success rates.

The summer 2017 semester reflected a **65%** success rate.

The fall 2017 semester reflected a **44%** success rate.

The spring 2018 reflected a **47%** success rate.

The final outcome for the 2017-2018 academic year is a **49%** success rate.



GRADUATIONS (TO DATE):

As of spring 2018, **approximately 447** degrees have been awarded to students, who may have sat out their suspension and not returned. Others' graduating status is pending.

HIGHLIGHTS and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the program's inception, in spring 2005, approximately **2,221** students have participated in this program with grand total success rate of **47%**. Although not all students successfully complete the program, many students express gratitude for the opportunity, indicating that the skills and lessons learned changed their lives. As a result of the program, some UCAN students have decided to attend two year institutions or choose different career paths. Others have returned from their suspension having acquired tools

that will help them academically as they continue to attempt to raise their grade point averages.

The UCAN program's reputation continues to grow and students, as well as faculty and staff are embracing the UCAN program. Other accomplishments include:

- Revised UCAN Semester Lesson Planner that provides weekly instructions for seminar facilitators.
- Organized and scheduled weekly Academic Success Workshops for summer, fall and spring. (see appendix)
- Sent congratulatory certificates to all successful participants.
- Requiring students to complete an academic passport that required them to meet with a success coach and visit the tutoring center.
- Constructed and administered an online end of the semester survey. (see appendix)
- UCAN continues to generate revenue for UCA. Approximately 2221 students have participated in this program and paid tuition, rather than sit out their suspension. This does not account for students who withdrew after the reimbursement deadline.

GOALS

The UCAN program is evolving and constantly changing to meet the needs of the students served. In order to strengthen the program the following changes will be incorporated into UCAN:

- Electronically receive academic progress information from instructors (in addition to student's required progress report) in an effort to diagnose problems in a timely manner and make the appropriate referrals for advising, success coaching and tutoring.
- To improve the success rate of students completing the program to 65% by continuing to assess the needs of the participants and to provide them with the resources they need to be more successful.
- Continue to share the success of the program with the UCA community and to gain support of faculty and staff through presentations, newsletter, etc...
- Require students to meet with a success coach at least once a semester.
- Continue to try to assess successes that may not be indicated in the success rate, such as students who go on to be successful at another institution or choose another path.
- Continue to improve visibility and promote the academic success workshops in an effort to include more non-UCAN program participants each semester.

In the fall 2017, there were more non-participants (**857**) in attendance than UCAN participants (**648**.) In spring 2018, there were **220** non-participants attendances and **507** participant attendances. The ACAD 1300 classes are responsible for much of the increase in the fall. There weren't as many offered in the spring.

Academic Success Workshops provided include:

- Financial Literacy
- Time Management
- Procrastination
- Paraphrasing Strategies
- Student Academic Responsibility
- How to Study
- Note taking Strategies
- Goal Setting
- Starting Your Semester Off Right
- Effective Communication
- Test Anxiety
- Study Styles/Learning Styles
- Build Inner Strengths for Outer Challenges
- The Power of Making Choices
- Dealing with Difficult Personalities
- Traits of Successful Students
- Professionalism

Survey Results

The results are from **125** students surveyed.

1. Please select the statement that best describes your parents' or guardians' level of education.	Response Percent	Response Count
One or both of my parents received a college degree.	28.8%	36
One or both of my parents attended college, but did NOT graduate.	27.2%	34
One or both of my parents received a technical degree or certificate.	12.0%	15
Neither of my parents attended college.	17.6%	22
N/A	14.4%	18

2. The UCAN Program has improved:	Response Percent	Response Count
My academic performance	45.6%	57
How I interact with professors	20.8%	26
Nothing	0.0%	0
My life	33.6%	42

3. The UCAN Program as a whole was a helpful and positive experience.	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	88.0%	110
Agree	11.2%	14
Disagree	0.08%	1
Strongly Disagree	0.0%	0
N/A	0.0%	0

4. The UCAN Program motivated me to change behaviors that hindered my academic success.	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	80.0%	100
Agree	16.8%	21
Disagree	1.6%	2
Strongly Disagree	0.08%	1
N/A	0.08%	1

5. The UCAN Program provided me with the academic support and skills I needed to be a better student.	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	80.0%	100
Agree	19.2%	24
Disagree	0.0%	0
Strongly Disagree	0.0%	0
N/A	0.8%	1

6. The orientation before the semester began was informative and motivational.	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	65.6%	82
Agree	25.6%	32
Disagree	3.2%	4
Strongly Disagree	0.08%	1
N/A	4.8%	6

7. The small group seminar was beneficial.	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	71.2%	89
Agree	23.2%	29
Disagree	3.2%	4
Strongly Disagree	1.6%	2
N/A	0.08%	1

8. Who was your seminar instructor? This is your opportunity to evaluate your instructor.

- Mrs. Nadia Jay was my instructor. I enjoyed her. She broke down a lot of the situations that I deal with and helped me become a better person.

- Mr. Williams pushes us to do better and makes the small group a family.
- Mrs. Pearlie Williams was great. Her words were always so positive and motivating! She pushed us to always do our best.
- Shannon Williams, he was outgoing and always positive.
- Marvin Williams- he was very encouraging but also very no-nonsense about doing what we needed to do. Never sugarcoated anything; he said what was needed to be said.
- Shannon Williams. He was really a really good instructor. He made sure that we all had something to say and it was a good class in general.
- Mr. S. Williams. He was definitely a very motivated man and I feel like that rubbed off on everyone.
- Shannon Williams. The best. The apple of excellence, integrity, and motivation didn't fall far from the tree in this case. Shannon created an environment where I came to know every person in the class and actually nurtured a mutual brotherhood of sorts amongst us. A+
- Mrs. Pearlie Williams was so full of energy. I could really tell that she cares about how we are doing as people, not just students.
- Pearlie Williams was my instructor. She was very helpful in the tips and advice that was given throughout the seminar. Always accepting and never judging anyone and their choices.
- Mr. Marvin Williams was my instructor and he was professional and understanding 110% of the time. As long as he isn't working for you more than you are working for yourself, he will do anything he can to help you. He is one of the most generous, understanding men I have ever met and I am honestly glad that I messed up and found myself in this program.
- Jennifer Ruud. She was great, really funny and her class was nice. Good interaction with other classmates.
- Ms. Nadia, she was very helpful and very personal. She made sure to get to know each one of us personally to cater the program in ways that would benefit us individually. I can say that she truly made me feel important and showed me that she wanted me to succeed.
- Mr. Williams showed that he really cared about us. He got on to us but it was just that he wanted us to be successful.
- Ms. Mattison, she was a wonderful instructor, she was helpful and pushed the class to want to do better.
- Mrs. Nadia Eslinger- She was an excellent instructor. I advise anyone who is in the UCAN program to get in her class.
- Marvin Williams, was a very helpful instructor that has helped me to do the things that are going to be beneficial to my future.
- Shannon Williams. He is an amazing instructor!!!
- Mrs. Williams. She would come in everyday with a smile and I could tell she wanted us to succeed. Great job!
- Mr. Mills- he was wonderful and even gave me advice after classes on writing a paper- got a 96% with his help!

9. The mandatory study hour requirement was useful.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	68.0%	85
Agree	27.2%	34
Disagree	3.2%	4
Strongly Disagree	1.6%	2
N/A	0.0%	0

Comments:

- Study hours are dumb. Me and my roommates have a study room in our house and I couldn't even use it half the time because I had to be in the library.
- My biggest problem with the program is that most of my classes require me to do work outside of the library, so it was hard for me to log library hours. I wish there were more areas on campus that allowed you to log, or at least a way to prove your hours outside of the library. I also found that the UCAN class/workshop conflicted with my studies. I'd prefer if there was a longer workshop, where smaller groups broke off after the presentation and talked about the workshop.
- Study hours is something that will be lacked on for those who don't live on campus.
- During the first seminar, remind students that Sundays are the start of the new week for study hours. Messed up the first week because of this, and it was the only thing I messed up for the program too.
- I recommend that all students should be held accountable for study hours because they are very helpful and they'll be happy.

10. The UCAN workshops were helpful.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly Agree	65.6%	82
Agree	28.8%	36
Disagree	4.8%	6
Strongly Disagree	0.08%	1

Favorite or least favorite workshop, or both (please explain):

- My favorite workshop was about whether you are an introvert or extrovert. It turns out that I am in the middle which is called ambivert.
- Favorite workshop was the one today dealing with personalities
- My favorite workshop was the one about note taking skills.
- My favorite workshop was the time management workshop. I say this because it seems that managing my time wisely was always a problem. After attention my workshop and seminar about the subject, I felt as if I found new ways and strategies to help me improve.
- My favorite workshop was the workshop from the financial aid lead by Mrs. Leslie Knox.
- The workshop where we made a schedule of what we did for the week was my favorite because it pinpointed exactly where and what I spend my time on and it help me to see am I taking the necessary steps to help me reach my final goal.

- I really liked the one about setting goals. I've never known how to set goals for myself, but after the seminar I found some very useful ways to do so. I believe now I can successfully achieve those goals.
- Procrastination was my favorite because it helped me as a procrastinator figure out how to manage my time efficiently
- My favorite and least favorite was the one where the lady was talking about taking classes we needed and stuff. I liked it because it was very informative, but I wish I knew that my freshman year. Also, she told us that we can take whatever classes we wanted to, to see what we want to do. But classes are expensive so I disagreed with her on that.
- My favorite workshop was on choices, and how we needed to make sure the choices we made were in line with the direction we wanted to go. Also needing to stop being a victim and take charge over your life. There isn't a least favorite workshop.
- Favorite workshop was about reading, it was the first seminar of the year.
- My least favorite workshop was paraphrasing.
 - Favorite: The lady from the diversity center who spoke on relationships
 - My favorite was with a man talking about his learning disabilities and struggles. I thought "If this man can do it than I can." The slogan for the UCAN program resonated in that workshop most because he emphasized how he did it when no one thought he could.
 - My favorite workshop was the second to last with Marvin Williams as speaker because it was the most personal workshop and it shows that we are not alone
 - Getting to know your teacher, this was one of my most helpful tools that guided me through this semester, I was in contact with all my teachers which played in my favor
 - Least Favorite: When the professor taught how to read one paragraph at a time. It was truly useless to me, especially when she tried to make us interact
- I do not have a least favorite workshop. But, I think it'd be better if we had to check a worksheet to sign in on going in the workshop and if we had to scan our bear cards afterwards because it's disrespectful for students to walk out and leave early and this was our chance to have an extra chance.
 - My favorite was when Mr. Williams taught us and sang to us, his story was really touching and I enjoyed it. It was so great to see him relate his life too ours and to see that we both struggle in PYSC Stats.
 - The workshop on effective communication worked wonders for me. Not only did it teach me avenues for opening productive conversation with professors it helped me immensely with my family and relationship.
 - Test taking strategies, I really struggle at that and it helped me on what I really need to do when taking a big test.
 - Learning how to study, it is easy to read, but through this workshop I found ways to learn the material I was reading.

11. Do you plan to return next semester? If your answer is no, please explain.	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	83.2%	104
No	9.6%	12
Unsure	7.2%	9

Comments:

- I need to have a fresh start on life. The school is great, but I believe I need to go take my talent and knowledge somewhere else.
- I had lost my scholarships and there is no way that I can pay out of pocket for the tuition. But I have already been planning steps on how to pay back the school and I will return back to school in a couple semesters.
- Having heart surgery in Chicago and I planning on staying up there to pursue a career in aesthetics.
- Going to California to play baseball at a college out there.
- I have a balance to pay first.
- I am graduating this semester.
- I need to get myself together financially and emotionally. I'm going graduate eventually but right now I don't think I'm ready.
- Transferring to another school
- I need to attend a smaller college. I am going to UACCM to focus more on school and to pay a little less.
- Health and other personal issues

12. What did you need the most?	Response Percent	Response Count
Skills	14.4%	18
Motivation	49.6%	62
Accountability	36.0%	45

13. What do you think will be your most difficult challenge in future semesters?

- Going on without someone pushing me to do so.
- Keeping myself motivated
- Finding money to pay
- Time management
- Staying focused
- That drive or want to, to actually put that time and effort outside of class to get things done.
- My most difficult challenge in future semesters will most likely be the difficulty of the actual work itself.
- Making sure that I use all of the resources I'm provided with
- Pushing myself to go to the library
- Trying to maintain everything from life problems to education problems
- Math!
- Faith in myself.

- I think I might have difficulty to continue pushing myself and reminding myself of the things I needed motivation for.
- Studying the right amount for each one of my classes
- Repairing my GPA after the semesters past that I haven't taken my classes seriously in.
- This semester I only took 6 hours. I feel my biggest challenge will be adjusting back to taking more hours.
- Making sure that I retain all of the information and making sure that I use all of the resources I have been provided with.
- Continuing to maintain a healthy work/life/school balance. It is always a balancing act, and while I feel I have the tools to maintain it, I know I will have to stay on top of things to make sure everything synergizes harmoniously.
- Being away from home
- Continuing learned behaviors that allow me to continue my growth.
- The most difficult challenge I have now, and in the future, is commuting such a long distance to school. With that being said, after doing this semester at 5 days a week, 2 or 3 days is going to be a cake walk.
- The most difficult challenge can be the UCAN workshops and seminar or study hours that I won't have to do because it helped me a lot honestly it pushes me to work hard
- Staying on top of deadlines
- I don't honestly think there's anything that could hold me back after I was in the UCAN program
- Staying Consistent
- Going back to my old ways
- Making sure to accomplish the little things so they do not affect the big picture.
- Just doing it without thinking about failure.
- Avoiding distractions

14. What resources would be useful after UCAN? If you responded "other" to the question above, please elaborate.

	Response Percent	Response Count
Academic Success Workshops	14.4%	18
Tutoring	24.8%	31
Accountability for Study Hours	47.2%	59
Meeting with a Success Coach	11.2%	14
Other	2.4%	3

Comments:

- Maintaining the positive influence of the relationships I formed in the program; an accountability by association type thing.
- I will apply the skills and knowledge elsewhere in life.
- Self-motivation

15. This is your opportunity to evaluate the program coordinator, Mr. Williams.

- Love him. He cares so deeply for every person in the room. Wonderful man
- Great guy, kind heart, but don't mistake it for ignorance. Good person to seek advice from. Truly wants to see students be successful in life whether they choose to stay in college or choose a different path.
- Mr. Williams was just great. He related to me on all levels and kept a smile on his face and mine. The UCAN experience was great and all, but Mr. Williams made it that much better!
- Excellent motivator & strategist. It seemed the workshops & his words always hit me directly when I needed them.
- He is funny but keeps you accountable. Sometimes he can be petty but it really makes him approachable.
- Mr. Williams was by far the nicest man I've met on campus. He could be serious, but as long as you did what you were supposed to do, you got along with him just fine.
- I love Mr. Williams he was such a great person and very nice just don't try to take advantage!
- The only thing I had to complain about was when Mr. Williams would talk about something and the same thing would be regurgitated at the workshop.
- He has been really helpful to me, and his discipline has been something that motivated me a lot
- Honestly wonderful motivator. Very insightful and knows what it's like to go through hard times so he can relate well to students. He puts things in black and white for us and doesn't hold back.
- Mr. Williams is probably one of the most genuine people I have ever met. The fact that he gives everyone a chance even if they feel like they don't deserve it. Coming into the program, I didn't think I even deserved to be back at UCA after the two semesters in a row that I destroyed my GPA by not getting help and being prideful. I thought that I could never recover from my mistakes and the poor choices that I have made in the past year, but Mr. Williams made everyone in the room feel worthy and capable.
- He's awesome! He told us his story multiple times, I think to serve as a reminder that you aren't born successful but through the actions and choices you make, you can be successful.
- Mr. Williams has helped through this semester by his encouragement and sternness. He has given me the motivation I needed to get through the semester. Without him I would have taken a semester off, but after going through this program I feel confident in the future semesters.
- This box is too small to contain all of the positive things I want to say, so I'll sum it up like this. There are only a handful of people that have, do, and will ever exist that are at the epitome of what it means to be great, Mr. Williams is one of them. He is truly special, and has an energy about him that permeates in and through everything and everyone he comes in contact with which resonates on such a fundamental level, uplifting and inspiring long after he has moved on. I am honored to have met him, and he has had a profound impact on my life. I owe him my most humble gratitude.

- An amazing man doing amazing work, I cannot speak highly enough for what the program has been able to do for me. It is a huge encouragement to know that I wasn't unintelligent and I could be successful in college I just needed to find the tools and behaviors to make me successful which Mr. Williams showed me.
- Mr. Williams was the best person I could have met in my life. I appreciate everything he's doing for students like me. He gives me motivation and I know that even after the program, I am able to go to him about anything and receive meaningful advice.
- Very lively man who motivated the class at all times. His enthusiasm was needed when I thought I could not accomplish what I had set to finish at UCA.
- One of the best instructors that I have seen during my time in UCA. Nice person, but will make you work and he motivates you. He wants students to succeed.
- Mr. Williams is a great person, hardworking, polite, intelligent and caring individual. He makes the UCAN program work. I am thankful to meet him and go through the UCAN program.
- Mr. Williams was an outstanding UCAN coordinator this semester. Even though you shouldn't be at the point in your academic journey. I can say it was a wonderful experience and I enjoyed being able to take this program.
- No words. More than just a staff member, but a GENUINE human being. As someone who is fairly anti-social and stone-faced, even seeing the man around campus shattered that. Give him a raise.
- Awesome, intelligent and inspiring man that will motivate you with you all his breath
- Was a very good motivational speaker. He was really firm and strict, but he was also very understanding of situations and would continue to motivate others. Even if he got snippy sometimes.
- I could tell from the beginning that he actually cared and saw something in us that most didn't even after the fact that we did terrible the semester before. Mr. Williams had faith in us and helped us realize that we have the power and are well capable of doing well in school. I really enjoyed UCAN this semester, it helped me find myself as a student.
- Very Passive Aggressive
- Excellent motivator & strategist. It seemed the workshops & his words always hit me directly when I needed them.
- He is such a motivator, positive influence, and overall a good man. I can see how hard he works and how much he cares about everyone. I'm glad I've had the opportunity to get to know him. He's phenomenal.
- He has been really helpful to me, and his discipline has been something that motivated me a lot
- Mr. Williams to me was more than just a coordinator. I truly do believe in signs and Mr. Williams light on what needed to be changed in my life. I feel that after going through this program it has put me back on track with my academics as well as becoming a young man. - Johnathan Logan
- Mr. Williams was great. What I liked the most about him was that he held you accountable for what you did. He always wasn't afraid to tell us that he was once where we were. He is very motivational and passionate about the program.

16. General comments or recommendations:

- I love the UCAN program!
- This program was so helpful to me, although it was not easy at all for me.
- I ended up enjoying coming to small group.
- Even though I won't be continuing school for right now, I will take the things I have learned everywhere with me. And when I come back, I will most likely still go to the workshops and keep study hours in the library. Thanks!
- Eat The Pizza
- I wish this wasn't just offered to failing students but also to freshmen and as a general course because it teaches not only successful behavior but tools necessary for college, for example knowing the requirements for graduating. All this is just as helpful to a student who is successful as it is to a student who is failing.
- Some of the seminars didn't seem relevant. We could have used that hour for studying or something else.
- Thank you to everyone who has a hand in this program. I encourage you to keep this program running strong. I don't know the statistics of people after they leave here, or during the program itself, but I for one am going to make it. Had it not been for this program I would have been suspended for a year and honestly don't know if I ever would have tried to come back to college. It changed my life for the better.
- This program is great, and really helped me. I fear if UCAN didn't exist, many students like myself wouldn't have returned to college.
- Keep changing the lives of people who have had a bad break or have found new motivation to have a better future.
- No recommendations. My only comment is that meeting with others who were struggling with similar issues as I helped tremendously.
- I would take the course again if it were possible
- Require UCAN for all students with GPAs below a 2.0, that way there will be fewer students on suspension. This would also elevate the community feel on campus.
- Wish individuals didn't have to almost get kicked out of school in order to go through a program like this.
- I really appreciate being in this program. It was a constant reminder of the things I should have tried much harder to do in the past. Having people in the program that have been in similar situations as I have made me feel like I wasn't alone and that I can do it!
- I CAN!!